

REMARKS

The specification was objected to. Claim 9 was rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 1 to 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and claims 5 to 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 14 to 18 have been added and claims 12 and 13 canceled without prejudice.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Specification Objection and 112 Rejection

The specification and claim 9 have been amended to clarify the points brought up by the Examiner and applicants thank the Examiner for noticing these inconsistencies.

Withdrawal of the objection and of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 thus is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102 (b)

Claims 1 to 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Roettger, and claims 5 to 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of Roettger alone or in further view of Fischer.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “the expansion segment being movable so as to be non-evenly depressible over a width of the expansion segment” as described for example in the specification at page 2, lines 19 to 22 and page 5, line 23 to page 6, line 1.

Roettger is fixed in this direction of movement as segments 18 are fixed to a segment carrier which needs to be fixed in this direction to a positioning spindle. Thus there is no way for the expansion segment of Roettger to be movable so as to be non-evenly depressible over a width of the expansion segment.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

With further respect to claims 6 to 10, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to one of skill in the art to place foam between two parts movable to one another in a folding cylinder. In addition, the specific limitations of claims 7, 8, 9 and 10 also are not addressed. For example, the friction-reducing coating is not addressed at all.

With further respect to claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that one of skill in the art would not have placed springs in the apparatus of Roettger as it has a positioning spindle 20 which must be fixed in the radial distance with respect to parts 18 and 19, as it is an eccentric. (See Roettger at col. 4, lines 20 to 34). Springs would destroy this eccentric function.

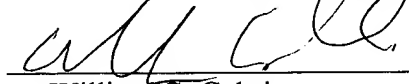
Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 5 to 10 for these reasons as well is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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